

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3219

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, GE

SUBJ: MAY 31-JUNE 3 VISIT TO SOVIET UNION BY GDR FOREIGN MINISTER

AT JUNE 10 POLADS, FRG REP DISTRIBUTED FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF
THE MAY 31-JUNE 3 VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION BY GDR FOREIGN
MINISTER OSKAR FISCHER.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE PUBLIC INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE CONCERNING THE VISIT
BY THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. OSKAR FISCHER, TO THE SOVIET
UNION FROM 31 MAY TO 3 JUNE 1975 CONFIRMS THE IMPRESSION THAT
THE SOVIET UNION IS AT PRESENT ENDEAVOURING TO AVOID DISPUTES
AND SHARPNESS VIS-A-VIS THE WEST IN VIEW OF ITS DESIRE TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE EARLY AND POSITIVE CONCLUSION OF CSCE. THE
COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT MENTION THE CONTROVERSIAL BERLIN PROBLEM.
IN HIS AFTER-DINNER SPEECH, MR. GROMYKO CONFINED HIMSELF TO A
GENERAL WARNING CONCERNING ANY ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE THE QUAD-
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RIPARTITE AGREEMENT. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY ARE THE STRONG
AND FREQUENT REFERENCES TO THE CLOSE COORDINATION OF THE FOREIGN
POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE CSCE, THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT "ALL OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL PHASE (OF CSCE) IN THE NEAR FUTURE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL NOW EXIST". HOWEVER, THE ADDITIONAL SENTENCE THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO ENSURE SUCCESS AT THE CONFERENCE AMOUNTS TO AN ADMISSION THAT ALL PROBLEMS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SOLVED.

3. AFTER DEALING WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, MR. GROMYKO'S AFTER-DINNER SPEECH CONCLUDES WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE IMPORTANT TASK NOW WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROCESS OF DETENTE CAN NEITHER BE INTERRUPTED NOR REVERSED. WHAT WAS ON THE AGENDA WAS THE QUESTION OF THE CONCLUSION OF CSCE WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME AND AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. THIS MAKES IT RATHER CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET WISH FOR AN EARLY AND SMOOTH END OF CSCE AT PRESENT ENJOYS PRIORITY OVER OTHER QUESTIONS. IN THE MIDDLE-EAST PART OF HIS SPEECH, MR. GROMYKO REPEATED THE KNOWN SOVIET PROPOSALS. HE RECOMMENDED THE EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT ON A BASIS WHICH LEADS TO POSITIVE RESULTS.

5. MR. GROMYKO'S OBSERVATIONS ON ENEMIES OF DETENTE WHO PREVENTED THE ELIMINATION OF DANGEROUS SOURCES OF TENSION AND WHO FANNED THE ARMS RACE ARE PROBABLY MAINLY DIRECTED AT NATO BUT COULD ALSO BE AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO THE WESTERN POLICY ON BERLIN. IN THEIR VAGUENESS, THEY ARE RELATIVELY RESTRAINED.

6. IN CONNECTION WITH THE EAST". FUTURE POLICY TOWARDS EUROPE IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT, IN HIS AFTER-DINNER SPEECH, MR. FISCHER GAVE SPECIAL EMPHASIS TO THE APPEAL OF LEADING SOVIET BODIES "TO THE PEOPLES, PARLIAMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS" OF 9 MAY AND DESCRIBED IT AS AN "ACTIVE INSTRUMENT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS", THUS GIVING IT AN OPERATIVE CHARACTER. IT IS LIKELY THAT GROMYKO AND FISCHER HAD MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON THE RELATED QUESTIONS OF THE POLICY OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP IN THE POST-CSCE PHASE THAN CAN BE READ IN THE PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS.

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7. MR. FISCHER INVITED MR. GROMYKO FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE GDR.
END TEXT. BRUCE

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